

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 5, line 18, and ending at page 6, line 15, of the specification as follows:

~~According to certain embodiments of the present invention:~~

~~the~~ The first region retains the analyte by capillarity [[,]] .

~~the~~ The dynamic effect is caused by change in magnetic field [[,]] .

~~the~~ The first region releases the analyte with the movement of the second region [[,]] .

~~the~~ The analyte sampling element retains a reagent a1 for reacting with a substance contained in the analyte and/or a reagent b1 for destroying a cell contained in the analyte [[,]] .

~~the~~ The reagent a1 is an enzyme, an antigen, an antibody, a receptor or nucleic acid [[,]] .

~~the~~ The substance is protein, a hormone, an antibody, an enzyme, an antigen or nucleic acid [[,]] .

~~the~~ The reagent b1 is inorganic salt or a surfactant [[,]] .

~~the~~ The cell is an erythrocyte, a leukocyte or a platelet [[, or]] .

[[a]] A component released from the cell destroyed by the reagent b1 is protein, glycosylated protein, phosphorylated protein, a hormone, lipid, an antibody, an enzyme, an antigen, a receptor, an inhibitor, DNA or RNA.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 8, of the specification as follows:

Moreover, the present invention provides an analyte treatment method comprising the steps of: (a) quantitatively collecting and retaining an analyte in an analyte sampling element comprising a first region capable of quantitatively collecting and temporarily retaining the analyte and a second region ~~on which a dynamic effect is acted on~~ wherein a dynamic effect acts on the second region from outside of the second region to move the first region; (b) introducing

the sampling element retaining the analyte into a reaction system; (c) moving the sampling element by the dynamic effect acted on from outside of the reaction system to release the analyte from the sampling element and homogeneously mixing the analyte in the reaction system by stirring.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 7, line 20 to page 8, line 19, as follows:

~~In certain embodiments of the present invention:~~

~~prior~~ Prior to the step (a), a reagent a1 for reacting with a substance contained in the analyte and/or a reagent b1 for destroying a cell contained in the analyte are retained in the sampling element [[,]] .

~~in~~ In the analyte treatment method the reagent a1 is an enzyme, an antigen, an antibody, a receptor or nucleic acid [[,]] .

~~the~~ The substance is protein, a hormone, an antibody, an enzyme, an antigen or nucleic acid [[,]] .

~~the~~ The reagent b1 is inorganic salt or a surfactant [[,]] .

~~the~~ The cell is an erythrocyte, a leukocyte or a platelet [[,]] .

[[a]] A component released from the cell destroyed by the reagent b1 is protein, glycosylated protein, phosphorylated protein, a hormone, lipid, an antibody, an enzyme, an antigen, a receptor, an inhibitor, DNA or RNA [[,]] .

~~the~~ The reaction system comprises a buffer, a solution containing a reagent a2 for reacting with a substance contained in the analyte or a solution containing a reagent b2 for destroying a cell contained in the analyte [[, or]] .

~~in~~ In the step (c), the analyte and the reaction system are homogeneously mixed by stirring, and at the same time, the reagent a2 reacts with a substance contained in the analyte and/or the reagent b2 destroys a cell contained in the analyte.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 20, of the specification as follows:

In the analyte treatment method using the analyte sampling element of the present invention, the above-described analyte treating device is used. More specifically, the method includes the steps of: (a) quantitatively collecting and retaining an analyte in an analyte sampling element comprising a first region capable of quantitatively collecting and temporarily retaining the analyte and a second region ~~on which a dynamic effect is acted on the second region~~ wherein a dynamic effect acts on the second region from outside the second region to move the first region; (b) introducing the sampling element retaining the analyte into a reaction system; (c) moving the sampling element by the dynamic effect acted on from outside of the reaction system to release the analyte from the sampling element and homogeneously mixing the analyte in the reaction system by stirring.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 3, of the specification as follows:

The present invention further provides a handling device for the analyte sampling element to be adopted in the analyte treatment method using the sampling element. The handling device detachably holds an analyte sampling element comprising a first region capable of quantitatively collecting and temporarily retaining an analyte and a second region ~~on which a dynamic effect is acted on~~ wherein a dynamic effect acts on the second region from outside of the second region to move the first region and is capable of introducing the sampling element retaining the analyte into the reaction system.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 26, of the specification as follows:

FIGs. 9(a) and 9(b) show how the sampling element 50 is detached from the tip of the handling device ~~[[48]]~~ 40. FIG. 9(a) and 9(b) are enlarged views illustrating the tip portion of the handling device ~~[[48]]~~ 40.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 9, of the specification as follows:

Due to the reaction between the analyte and the reagent, the liquid system in the reaction cell 70 may be whitened. If scattered~~, either~~ light intensity, light transmissivity or absorbancy, designated as reference symbol 76, of the liquid system is measured by the photometer 73 before and after the reaction, it is allowed to confirm whether the reaction between the analyte and the reagent is completed or to measure the analyte quantitatively or qualitatively. Thus, the analyte can be treated appropriately. The analyte treatment device may be controlled by a controller 75.